



October 1, 2020

Dear King Members, Friends, and Family:

Earlier this week, the Department of Health Services reported that the state is in crisis due to the rising cases of COVID-19. Further, the surge in cases is threatening hospital capacities and the rate of cases is now going up in older people.

While we've worked very hard to protect everyone on our campus, we do not operate in a bubble. As COVID-19 is spreading rapidly through our state, it has also begun spreading here. Unfortunately, we have 19 additional people on campus who have contracted the coronavirus and several more suspected cases with tests pending. In total, we have 36 people who live and work here at King who are now confirmed to have this terrible virus. Five of the new cases of COVID-19 are among members, meaning we currently have 14 members in quarantine.

Members who have COVID-19 are quarantined in Stordock Hall which had been chosen and set up as a quarantine unit several months ago. All staff working in the quarantine wear full PPE (N95 masks, gowns, and eye protection). Only essential personnel are permitted to enter this building. Please refer to our letter dated 9/25/20 for a list of additional steps we are taking on campus in response to COVID-19. Be assured we are doing all we can to help these members recover and prevent further spread through strict infection control efforts.

Twenty-two staff are now quarantining at home, as well. This is creating a challenge. This is an all-hands-on-deck situation. We are initiating requests for additional staffing. We have already made a request for additional agency and we are also working with the federal VA to bring in additional care staff.

If you haven't already done so, please visit www.WisVetsEmail.com to sign-up for electronic updates.

We have 445 veterans and others living on our campus (176 at Olson Hall alone) and over 700 staff here who work very hard every single day to take care of them. These are our nation's heroes and our incredible, dedicated health care workers. I've said it before, but one of the very best things about working at King is the relationships we build with the men and women who have served our country. We take great pride in caring for them. These men and women are more than just a patient to us and what we do is more than just a job. Please know we are confident we can rise to the challenge that COVID-19 presents, but also that we care very much what happens here.

King is a small community with a beautiful campus and it can be easy to fall into the false sense that we are immune from what is happening elsewhere. We are not. Wisconsin continues to set record high numbers of COVID-19 positive cases. While initially rural areas like ours were not affected by the virus, now **EVERY** county in the state is experiencing **HIGH** levels of COVID-19 activity.



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

We cannot prevent the spread of coronavirus without your help. Please, help us spread the word about how important it is for all of us to do our part in protecting our staff and members from this virus. It is so important to continue to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash our hands frequently. These are the only known ways we prevent its spread.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Servatius'.

Tammy Servatius, Commandant